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Bunker Hill

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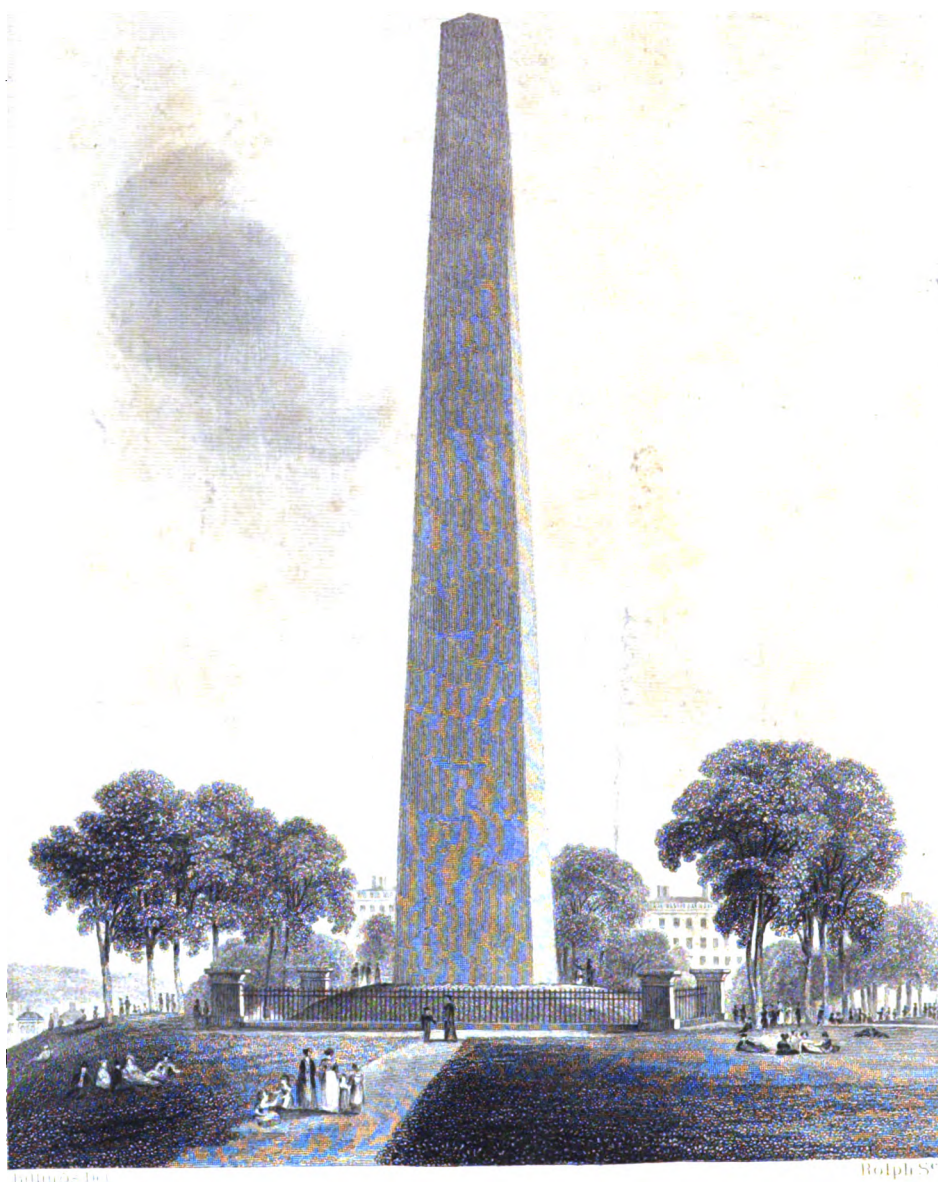
FROM

Miss Penelope Noyes

Jan. 1st 1727

3 1/2 lbs. Golden

Febru. 1727



Hollings Del.

Holph Sc.

WASHINGTON MONUMENT, WASHINGTON, D.C.

BOSTON COMMON.

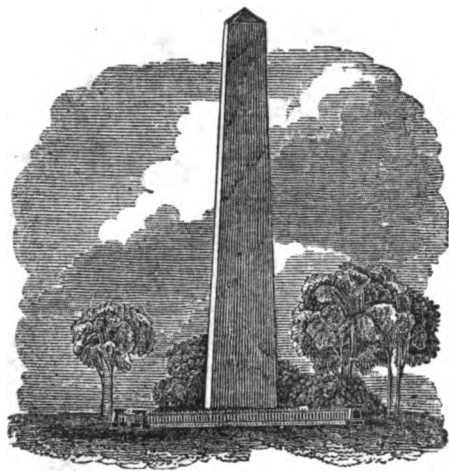


H. Billings

J. L. Knapp

BUNKER HILL,
ITS
BATTLE AND MONUMENT.

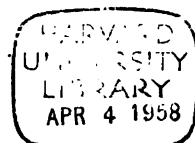
Embellished with a fine Steel Engraving.



ACCOMPANIED BY A BEAUTIFUL STEEL ENGRAVING OF
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Bunker Hill Monument.

THE Battle of Bunker Hill was fought on the 17th of June, 1775, and the energies which were enlisted in that contest, and the tremendous interests staked on the results, very naturally gave birth to a desire to commemorate the success. A memorial of such an event needs no apology. The spot where, in an awful hour, the hearts of a multitude were united for the accomplishment of an object which required almost unprecedented daring, called for such enduring fortitude, and inspired the unanimity and enthusiastic resolve necessary to success, might well be the spot on which to record the gratitude of an emancipated nation. Accordingly, soon after this memorable event, the desirableness of erecting a substantial monument on the hill where the battle occurred, was generally expressed and speedily acted upon. Contributions were first received in the year 1824, by an association called the "Bunker Hill Monument Association," of which the payment of five dollars for the object proposed admitted the contributor a member. The fund speedily increased to such an amount as to warrant the laying of the corner stone on the anniversary of the battle in the succeeding year. At this period, the Marquis de la Fayette, whose exertions in our country's service will be remembered and admired by her last-born son, visited America, and his presence afforded an opportunity of celebrating the event on a much larger scale than had been previously contemplated. He was solicited to lay the corner stone surrounded by the surviving veterans of the bat-

tle, who had been invited to be present on the occasion. The ceremony was performed amidst an immense multitude of spectators, who were afterwards addressed in a speech remarkable for its appropriate eloquence by the Hon. Daniel Webster. The event, however, had been hurried, in order to secure the presence of La Fayette on the occasion; it was subsequently found necessary to alter the plan, and the corner-stone of La Fayette was placed in the centre of the foundation. The present corner-stone forms the eastern angle of the base, and rests immediately opposite the point where the enemy landed. The labor of erection was commenced in March, 1827, on a plan devised by Mr. Solomon Willard, an architect of considerable celebrity and a native of Boston. A quantity of granite situated at Quincy was purchased, and employed in its erection. The work was under the superintendence of Mr. James Savage, whose ability in the prosecution and completion of the edifice has gained for him the highest praise.

In the year 1828, the work was suspended in consequence of deficiency of funds. At that period, fifty-six thousand dollars had been expended, and had defrayed, excepting the purchase of the land, all the previous expenses. It was resumed in 1834, and continued till 1835, during which period twenty thousand dollars more had been expended. It was not resumed again till 1840, when a sufficient sum was raised to finish the structure; the means by which this was effected is recorded and will be

read with equal satisfaction and pleasure. A fair was held in Boston, in September, 1840, the articles exhibited at which were supplied by Ladies. Every female in the Union who honored the occasion, were invited to contribute, and the result was a magnificent display of talent and ingenuity which readily secured delighted purchasers.

The last stone of the building was raised on the morning of July 23d, 1842, announced by a discharge of canon, and accompanied in its ascent by Mr. E. Carnes, jr., of Charlestown, waving the American flag during the ceremony.

The foundation of the edifice is twelve feet below the base of the monument, is composed of six courses of fair split stone, and besides these six there are eighty-four courses of stone above ground. The diameter of the base is thirty feet, and for 208 feet, at which elevation the apex commences to be formed, the diminution is about fifteen feet. The entire elevation of the Monument is two hundred and twenty-one feet.

The chamber at the summit is seventeen feet in height and 11 feet in diameter, and has four windows, each of which is two feet eight inches in height and two feet two inches in breadth.

There are 294 steps in the interior, and the walls are six feet thick at the base.

From the immense size and peculiar form, the erection and completion of this imposing structure has been a task of great difficulty. But every stone is laid and adjusted with the utmost precision and with mathematical accuracy, and undoubtedly it will endure as long as the most solid architectural works in existence, if not overthrown by human violence or the scarcely less probable action of an earthquake.

In the course of the whole work, such was the care and skill of Mr. Savage that only one accident occurred; this was the fall and consequent death of a laborer, who was pushed from the top of the twelfth course.

Such is the history of Bunker Hill Monument, an edifice round which centre the most hallowed associations, of which the celebration of this day will hereafter be one of the most pleasurable.

Would that we could inscribe on this page the name of each hero, who on that day

"Fought and bled in freedom's cause,"

and detail to the reader a few of the circumstances of his life, and picture to him his death. And yet, how well might one fancy the latter! Who can doubt that Bunker Hill Battle was last in the thoughts of him who survived it for years as well as of those who fell amid the clash of arms and the cry of triumph? We could almost envy them the hour's rapture — we are nearly tempted to ask for some Bunker Hill on which to display *our* prowess, when we contemplate the fervent gratitude of a free people, and glance at its magnificent memorial.

Among those who on that day fell, none, perhaps, more deserve the praises of the eulogist than WARREN. We conceive of this man all the intellectual sagacity and profound wisdom of a sage, the devotedness of a Spartan, the courage of a Roman; not to be left behind in the great business of the hour, and not content with having shone as a statesman, he was impatient to be where activity was greatest in the cause in which his soul was wrapped, — and when the enemy sounded his approach, and was answered by defiance, his great soul took foremost in the lead:

"He rushed into the field, and foremost fighting fell."

COL. GARDNER was another of the patriots who, on that eventful day, fell a martyr to freedom. In the heat of the strife, he was left without orders from the commanding officer. Impatiently he led his gallant three hundred to the scene of warfare, where they were first set upon intrenching. Putnam next directed them to action in the line, and Gardner immediately directed them to drop their tools, and led them to the attack. He was thus engaged when he was mortally wounded by a musket ball in the groin, — but forgetting his pain in the enthusiasm of the scene, he issued with his dying breath his last command to his men — "Conquer or die — Conquer or die!" As he was being led from

the field, he was met by his son, who besought him to accept his aid in removing him to a place of safety, but was answered by a command immediately to march to his duty in the field, too impressive not to be complied with.

The death of men like these, has rendered holy the ground which received their blood. The names of such devoted heroes will ever be the watchword of struggling freedom. Inscribed in the temple of Liberty, wherever tyranny has been conquered, their names will descend to latest posterity, connected with deeds whose recital will be sufficient to resuscitate the desire of freedom and love of glory in the hearts of an enslaved and degraded world.

The thousands who share in the celebration of this day, will witness an event, altogether of too stirring a nature to be ever forgotten. No crowning incident in the life of the veteran warrior can cause enthusiastic ardor to burn higher, and to their children none can happen so significant of true glory. But the rejoicings of this day, loud and spontaneous as they will be, are, after all, but the infant swell of a nation; he who contemplates the event with the eye of a philosopher, will deem it an era of the world, whose arrival should be hailed by nothing short of the acclamations of mankind. With joy we hail the light whose rays have reached us through an abyss of inconceivable space and almost impenetrable darkness:—with no less rapture welcome we the moral spark struck forth by centuries of struggles between the spirit of glorious freedom, and the demon of tyrannical exclusiveness.

Instead, therefore, of contemplating this merely as a national event, at which Nicholas might sneer as not being in his line, and our friend Bull send forth a good-natured roar, we regard it as **THE EVENT OF THE AGE**,—the celebration less of an American victory than of a triumph of humanity. Thus do we heighten the glories of valor, whose struggles for that which secured the sympathies of a world has rendered sacred the very soil we tread, and shaped an urn of consecrated remembrance in the hearts of remotest generations.

Liberty is emphatically a great word, and admits of no such limitation, modification, or explanation, as to make it countenance an act of injustice. It is the gift of God,—it is the inheritance of MAN,—a fire which water will not quench, and to which the vain breath of tyrants doth but add fierceness. The spirit of individual and national independence is no “almost second,” it is the predominative principle of our nature. It lives in the mind, and unconsciously influences every action of our lives; with alacrity it starts into the active counsels which decide motives and action, is suspiciously vigilant of its rights, and most vehement and overwhelming in its eloquence. It is this principle which for centuries has struggled for a lawful existence in the old world, where the weight of wealth and influence had centred in the few and strong. The privileges of the aristocracy are the veriest curses of the people who endure them. The well-informed and sensible may regard such an institution, under some circumstances, as a necessary evil, but will never cease to call it a fetter on the limb of justice; to the vain and ignorant it may appear a bauble to boast of, but experience will soon wear off the specious gilding, and display the inexorable steel. In France, centuries of accumulated injustice from an aristocracy tremendous for its strength, and bearing in its fangs the destiny both of king and people, did not excite merely passing anger, nor yet stifle the hope which is an incentive to struggle. The oppressor knew not of the gathering wrath, the stern determination, the recklessness of life, which were gradually hardening the mind of men; he trod without fear the spot where lay hid the subterranean fire of indignant hearts, soon to burst over the land a volcano of long cherished hate and bitterness.

The struggle for religious freedom in England caused the exile of the oppressed to a distant and almost unknown country. In that clime small colonies at first acknowledged dependence upon the land from which they had emigrated. But a continuance of oppression was not to be endured by those who had sacrificed the most valuable endearments of life to rid them of its

shackles. Tyranny was resisted, and the independence of a country, now free and unrestrained to govern itself, has been the glorious result. We regard this as an advance in the moral history of mankind, because it exhibited to the world an intelligent people who were also a free people, unshackled by a blood-sucking aristocracy, — no hereditary monarch and royal family to be supported in useless idleness by the shoulders of an intelligent and industrious nation ! they were free to form their own institutions, with none to doubt that where all were equal no interest of an exclusive nature could find an advocate, but the common weal be the interest of each, and all would therefore be unanimous in its promotion.

That this triumph of principle occurred on American soil is our glorious boast, and that it extended to other lands proves the principle we have been advancing. This monument, then, records no isolated triumph of arms — those masses of human beings raise not the cry of vic-

tory for a single battle won. If for that we lift up our voice in such deafening acclamations, recount but the catalogue of our spoils, and heaven's high arches will ring with our huzzas. We have shaken off venerable abuses and time-honored humbugs ; — we have wiped the accumulated rust of centuries from off the relics of liberty, and polished up the metal to its ancient lustre ; — we have removed the dust of centuries from old feudal parchments, examined and burnt them ; — we have abolished all right of brow-beating conscience ; and care not enough for any man's influence to doff our hats to him. Our population will spread, and our institutions will influence the destiny of the world, while older nations are yet struggling with their abuses ; we shall occupy the first page in the history of nations who have asserted with boldness the rights of equality, and on us will be bestowed the high commentaries of the learned, and the undying gratitude of remotest posterity.

Bunker Hill Battle.

THE American readers of this brief sketch, are in general too well acquainted with the history of the origin of the Revolutionary struggle, to need a recapitulation of the events which preceded the battle we are about to describe: it will be amply sufficient to render our account intelligible, if we relate the immediate preliminary proceedings, and present a view of the position and state of the two contending parties.

"After the battle of Concord and Lexington, on the 19th of April, 1775, the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, fired with indignation at the illegal attempt of the British to seize the stores at Concord, and at the aggression of the soldiery on that occasion, passed a vote in consequence of which the militia of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut assembled at Cambridge and Roxbury, and under the command of Gen. Ward, formally commenced the siege of Boston, which was then garrisoned by British troops, to the amount of somewhat more than ten thousand.

"The Americans numbered about fifteen thousand, of whom ten thousand belonged to Massachusetts, and the remainder to New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. They constituted an irregular and undisciplined army, without accoutrements, or any other uniform than their working suits. Recruits and stragglers were continually coming in. Yet many of those provincial soldiers, though undisciplined by any thing like regular service, were by no means unused to the severities and obligations of a military life, having had experience in the Indian and French wars. One regiment of artillery, with nine field pieces, had been raised in Massachusetts, and put under command of the famous engineer, Col. Gridley, but it was not yet thoroughly organized."*

The British, impatient of the blockade in which they were held by this body of undisciplined and half armed militia, finally resolved to occupy the heights of Charlestown and Dorchester, which commanded the town of Boston, and which, they were apprehensive, would be pre-occupied by the insurgent provincials. This determination they had determined to put in force on the 18th of June, intelligence of which was communicated to the American authorities by some of their secret friends in Boston. The Council of War, and the Committee of Safety, accordingly deliberated upon the propriety of anticipating the enemy by sending a force to fortify the Charlestown Heights.

Gen. Ward, and Dr. Warren, the Chairman of the Committee of Safety, were doubtful of the expediency of the measure. They alleged that if Bunker Hill were taken possession of, it could only be maintained against a constant fire from the British batteries in the city and from the numerous vessels of war in the harbor; and that this fire could not be properly answered, inasmuch as there were but eleven barrels of powder in the camp, and not above fifty more in the whole province. Gen. Putnam, of Connecticut, was, however, strongly in favor of the occupation, and enforced his opinion by saying that "the Americans are not at all afraid of their heads, though very much afraid of their legs; if you cover these, they will fight forever." Gen. Pomeroy, an officer who had acquired considerable reputation in the old French war, and was very popular and influential, agreed with Putnam in advocating the measure. He was willing to attack the enemy with five cartridges to a man, for he had been accustomed in hunting with three charges of powder, to bring home two or three deer. The opinions and arguments of Pomeroy and Putnam finally influenced the Council to vote that the heights of Charlestown, which had been previously reconnoitred, should be occupied and fortified; and on the 15th of June, two days before the battle, the Committee of Safety, by a secret vote, advised that possession should be immediately taken of Bunker Hill and of Dorchester Heights.

In obedience to the vote of the Council, Gen. Ward, the commander, issued orders on Friday, June 16, 1775, (the very day on which Washington was officially informed in the Congress at Philadelphia, of his appointment to the command of the Continental army,) to Colonels Prescott and Bridge, and to the commandant of Col. Frye's regiment, to have their men ready, and prepared for immediate service. They were all yeomen from Middlesex and Essex Counties, and were habituated to the hard labors of a farm, beneath a summer's sun. A company of artillery, under Capt. Gridley, and a small detachment from the Connecticut regiment, commanded by Capt. Knowlton, were also ordered to hold themselves in readiness.

The entire number of men detached on this service was from ten to twelve hundred; and Col. Prescott, the leader, was ordered to take possession of, to fortify, and to defend Bunker Hill, but to keep the purpose of the expedition concealed,—which was so effectually done, that the

men were entirely ignorant of it, till, on reaching Charlestown Neck, they found wagons laden with entrenching tools. They set out from Cambridge at about nine o'clock at night, Prescott, with two serjeants carrying dark lanterns, leading the way, and arrived at their destination at a little before midnight.

It was immediately perceived that, though they had been directed to occupy Bunker Hill, yet, that Breed's Hill, a smaller eminence, and one much nearer the city, was evidently much better situated for a source of annoyance to the garrison of Boston,* and that, if Bunker Hill were occupied imperfectly, as from the short time allowed, it must be, the force upon it could not have prevented the British from landing, and taking possession of Breed's Hill. After considerable time wasted in deliberation, the men commenced, precisely at midnight, to throw up an entrenchment upon the summit of Breed's Hill.

The works were formed altogether of the earth as it was hurriedly dug up, and consisted of a redoubt eight rods square, and a breastwork extending nearly four hundred feet along the summit and down the slope of the hill towards the Mystic river. The Monument now occupies the centre of the redoubt, the southern side of which ran parallel with the main street of the town. Of these works, the erection of which was planned by Col. Gridley, no remains are left, the last traces having been obliterated in preparing the ground for the foundation of the Monument. A small portion of the breastwork is however yet distinctly visible, where the soil has never been ploughed. The remains of entrenchments which are to be seen a short distance west of the Monument, were parts of works thrown up by the British army, some time subsequent to the battle.

The Americans labored expeditiously but silently until daybreak, without being discovered or suspected by the British in Boston, though the distance between them was less than a mile, and the Boston shore guarded by a line of sentinels whose cry "all's well" was heard distinctly on the Charlestown shore. But besides the sentinels, there were at still shorter distances five vessels of war in the waters that surrounded the position which the patriots had taken possession of. These were, the Glasgow frigate, with twenty guns and one hundred and thirty men, which lay on the line of the present bridge to East Cambridge or Cragie's Point, and commanded the neck of land by which the peninsula of Charlestown is united to Cambridge; the Somerset, with sixty-eight guns and five hundred and twenty men, lying near the draw of the present Charlestown bridge, and commanding the dwelling-houses of the village; the Lively, with twenty guns and one hundred and thirty men, lying off the spot where is now the United States navy yard, so that its shot could take effect directly upon the American fortification; the Falcon, a sloop of war, lying off Morton's point, defended the ascent between the landing places of the British and Breed's Hill; and lastly, the Cerberus, of thirty-six guns. All of these vessels were in such prox-

imity to Charlestown, that it is not a little remarkable that the operations of the Americans were unheard by some one of the thousand of their crews; either there was no watch kept, or it was an uncommonly sleepy one, for it is scarcely possible that the provincials, however cautious, could have performed so much work in the stillness of the night without making considerable noise.

At the earliest dawn of day, however, the American entrenchments were descried from the deck of the Lively, which was the nearest vessel, and from which a heavy fire was immediately commenced upon the redoubt; in this the other vessels of war and the battery on Copp's Hill speedily joined, and all combined, continued their cannonade during the rest of the day.

Such however was the energy and industry with which the Americans had labored during the four hours since midnight, that their works, though far from complete, still in a considerable degree sheltered them from the missiles of the enemy: and they coolly continued to strengthen their entrenchments without suffering any other loss than that of one man, who imprudently venturing in front of the redoubt was killed by a cannon-ball and immediately buried in the ditch. A few of the men on witnessing this occurrence left the hill and did not return.

When the expedition started for Bunker's Hill on the night previous to the battle, refreshments and a reinforcement had been promised to be sent in the morning. But they did not arrive, and the men were greatly exhausted by their severe toil and by the already intense heat of the day.

Some of the officers compassionating the privations of the soldiers, entreated Colonel Prescott to send and request General Ward to send a sufficient body of fresh troops to occupy the place of the fatigued men, and let the latter retire. Prescott held a council of war to consider the matter, but was himself strongly opposed to the application: he did not suppose that the enemy would dare to attack the Americans, and was certain that if they did make the attack they would be defeated, and he thought that the men who had labored half the night in the construction of the works, richly deserved the honor of defending them; and particularly as they had already endured the fire of the British sufficiently to have learnt to contemn it.

The undaunted confidence of their leader roused and strengthened the courage of the men, and they resolved to maintain their position and await the conflict. Prescott, as he was placing a guard at the ferry to prevent the British from landing there, was seen by General Gage, who was examining from Copp's Hill the proceedings of the Americans. He enquired of Counsellor Willard, Prescott's brother-in-law, who the American commander was. Willard informed him, and Gage demanded "Will he fight?" "Yes sir, to the last drop of his blood," was the reply, "but I cannot answer for his men."

In the council of war held by the British after the proceedings of the Americans had taken place, there was considerable diversity of opinion as to the course to be pur-

sued in dislodging the entrenchers on the Charlestown heights, though the officers were unanimously of opinion that the safety of the city and its garrison required that the dislodgement should be effected. Generals Clinton and Grant advised, and were sustained in their advice by a majority of the council, that the troops should embark in boats from the bottom of the common, and, protected by the men of war and floating batteries, should land at Charlestown in the rear of the redoubt, by which movement the Americans and their entrenchments would be completely in their power. General Gage, however, apprehended that if this measure was attempted, the troops would be exposed to imminent danger of being surrounded by the American forces at Cambridge, and those whom they were proceeding to attack on Bunker Hill. Consequently he resolved, though in opposition to the opinion of the council, that the soldiers should land and attack the provincials in front.

Meanwhile, the uncertainty which prevailed as to the proceedings or intentions of the British, prevented the American Commander-in-chief from sending reinforcements to Colonel Prescott, though they were urgently requested by the latter and by General Putnam. General Ward dreaded that if he weakened his forces at Cambridge, the British might detach a portion of their troops against the American head quarters, or against the village of Watertown, where all the provincial munitions of war were deposited.

Prescott perceiving the preparations that the British were making in Boston, changed his opinion, which at first was that they would not dare to attack him, and again sent a messenger to General Ward to demand reinforcements. Major Brooks, who carried his request, being without a horse was compelled to proceed on foot, and did not reach head quarters till ten o'clock. He found the Committee of Safety in session, and his solicitations being seconded by those of Richard Deven, a resident of Charlestown, and a member of the Committee, were complied with, and General Ward ordered Colonels Reed and Stark to proceed to Bunker Hill with the troops from New Hampshire. The latter were at Medford, and the order to march did not reach them till eleven o'clock, and then considerable time was lost in preparing and providing them with ammunition. Two flints, a gill of powder and fifteen balls were given to each of the men, who being without cartridge boxes, used powder horns, pouches and their pockets.

Dr. Joseph Warren was, after the departure of Adams for Philadelphia, perhaps the most prominent and influential of the Patriots, and was at the time of which we write acting as President of the Provincial Congress, and Chairman of the Committee of Safety. Though quite unacquainted with military affairs, a commission as Major General had been granted to him on the 14th of June, three days before the battle. He was at Watertown when the news of the contest came to his ears, and though he was at the time severely ill, he determined notwithstanding the earnest remonstrances of his friends and family to proceed to the

scene of action. As he was quite unacquainted with the art of war, and his services as a member of the Committee and in other civil capacities were of inestimable value to his country, this determination was certainly imprudent and from its consequences greatly to be regretted.

The British soon completed their preparations, and at noon, twenty-eight barges, filled with troops, left the end of Long wharf, and without molestation, arrived in an hour at Morton's Point, which had been determined upon by their leaders as the most convenient landing place. Some of these soldiers had arrived from Ireland the day before, and their first footsteps upon American soil were upon the peninsula of Charlestown. General Howe commanded them, assisted by many experienced and distinguished officers; among whom were General Pigot, Colonels Abercrombie, Nesbit and Clark—Majors Williams, Bruce, Butler, Spendlove, Pitcairn, Smelt, Small, Short, and Lord Rawdon.

Soon after landing, the British discovered, that by an astonishing negligence, they had been supplied with cannon-balls too large for their pieces, which were thus rendered useless until a fresh supply was obtained from Boston, which did not arrive till after the commencement of the action.

General Howe in sending for the proper cannon balls, also requested a reinforcement, as he had already perceived the position of the provincials to be stronger than was anticipated. Accordingly, at about two o'clock an additional force was sent, which increased the number of the British to about four thousand, while that of the provincials was considerably less.

Just previous to the commencement of the attack, the Connecticut troops under Captain Knowlton, constructed a work which was eventually of great aid in the defence. Running from the road between the hills to the bank of the Mystic river, was a rail fence built partly upon a low stone wall: parallel to this, another fence was hastily made by the Connecticut men, and the space between them filled with new mown hay, of which there was an abundance on the ground. Thus was formed a slight breastwork of more than two hundred yards in length.

The cause of the unwillingness and delay of General Ward in sending reinforcements to the force on Bunker Hill, appears to have been an apprehension that the remainder of the British troops not engaged in the attack upon Charlestown Heights, would make an attempt upon some other part of the positions of the besieging army; and in fact a heavy cannonade was kept up upon the Americans at Roxbury to deter them from proceeding to the assistance of their brethren at Bunker Hill, and at one time a vessel containing 500 or 600 men, was sent against the Cambridge shore, though fruitlessly, owing to the unfavorable state of the wind and tide.

Three American regiments were stationed at different positions between Charlestown Neck and Cambridge. The reinforcement that was sent in compliance with the mes-

sage conveyed by Major Brooks, crossed the Neck without much loss, though exposed to a very severe fire from the Glasgow frigate and from two armed gondolas. Captain Callender arrived with his artillery, and General Stark with his New Hampshire troops, whom he led on slowly, because, as he asserted, "one fresh man in battle is worth ten fatigued ones." A part of Stark's men were taken by General Putnam to Bunker Hill, (as distinguished from Breed's) which the provincials wished to fortify, as of the utmost consequence in case of a retreat.

The American artillery being improperly managed, was of very little service during the day: it was stationed sometimes in the redoubt and sometimes near the breast-work before mentioned.

General Pomeroy arrived on Bunker Hill just before the battle commenced. He had borrowed a horse to ride to Charlestown; but on arriving at the Neck, and perceiving that it was swept by the fire from the British ships, he became afraid to risk the animal, and accordingly dismounting, proceeded on foot to the redoubt, where he was received with great enthusiasm.

Prescott and Putnam strenuously endeavored to dissuade Warren from risking himself or participating in the fight, and offered to receive his orders as Commander. But he declined the honor, and resolved to remain as a mere volunteer, requesting Putnam to point out to him the spot where the action would be fiercest.

The intention of the British was to storm the redoubt, and also to turn the left flank of the Americans, and thus cut off their retreat. With this view, Brigadier General Pigot, who commanded the British left wing, displayed under cover of the eastern slope of the hill, and advanced directly against the redoubt and breast work. The right wing which advanced towards the rail fence along the bank of the Mystic, was led by General Howe himself. The artillery covered the march of the infantry, though its assistance was greatly diminished by the before mentioned singular mistake in the size of the balls.

The supply of powder with the Americans being very limited, it was requisite that it should be husbanded with care and not wasted with ineffectual firing. The men were consequently ordered to retain their fire until the enemy were within eight rods, and when they could see the white of their eyes, to aim at their waistband; also to "aim at the handsome coats, and pick off the commanders." However, when the British came within gun shot, a few of the men became impatient and fired at them. This disobedience greatly excited the indignation of Prescott, who threatened to kill any one who repeated it, while Lieut. Colonel Robinson busied himself in knocking up the muskets that had been levelled.

The word to fire was given when the British arrived within eight rods, and was followed by a volley that swept down the British ranks by hundreds, and dyed the green grass with the blood of their best and bravest—for the Americans selected with deliberate aim, the officers, whose

loss, in proportion, greatly exceeded that of the privates. The British commander was forced to order a retreat.

A similar reception had been given to the right wing of the British, which, under General Howe, attacked the rail fence behind which Putnam was posted. The provincials here had exhibited the same eagerness to fire as their brethren at the redoubt, and they had been restrained and reprehended with equal severity by the officers, until the enemy had attained the appointed distance of eight rods, when again a stream of fire issued from the American lines, and again the British were forced to retreat, some of them even to their boats. It was observed that as the regulars did not take aim, their bullets passed over the heads of the Americans and riddled the branches of the surrounding trees, while their trunks were untouched.

At this juncture, had reinforcements and supplies been properly furnished to the Americans, the fate of the day would doubtless have been very different. But Charlestown Neck was raked in such a manner by the shot from the vessels, that it was almost impossible for a body of troops to pass it. Major Gridley, the son of the eminent engineer, had been, in compliment to his father, appointed to the command of a battalion of infantry, and at this crisis proved himself wholly unworthy of his rank. He was deficient in courage and conduct, and when ordered to Bunker Hill, declined to go further than Cobble Hill, where his force was of no service whatever: some of his men, led on by Captain Trevett, despising his cowardice, left him and proceeded to the hill. Colonel Gerrish, the commander of the artillery on Bunker Hill, who was an exceedingly fat man, became so fatigued with exertion and the excessive heat, that he could not be persuaded to make any effort to remove his guns to the rail fence, where they would have been of essential service.

The British had suffered so severely in their first attack, that some of the officers were unwilling to renew it; but so keenly was the disgrace of the repulse felt by the veteran commander, that no inducement could prevail upon him to retire; and as soon as the troops could be rallied, preparations were made for again attempting to storm the hill.

Four hundred additional troops were sent over to reinforce the British, who again advanced slowly and with the utmost steadiness. At this time General Howe sent an order to Generals Burgoyne and Clinton, who were watching the scene of strife from Copp's hill, to fire the village of Charlestown for the purpose of dislodging some of the Americans who, from the houses were firing on the British, and also to afford the advancing troops the cover of the smoke: shells were immediately thrown from the battery, which fired several houses, and the town being composed chiefly of wood, was speedily wrapped in flames, though from a sudden shifting of the wind, no benefit accrued to the British from this act.

The second attack was met in the same manner as the first had been, except that the British were allowed to approach two rods nearer than before, ere the Americans

poured in their volley. Again the regulars were mowed down by hundreds, and so great was the carnage among the officers, that General Howe, the commander, who displayed great intrepidity, was, for a time, almost alone, his aid-de-camps and almost his whole staff being either dead or wounded. The British were again forced to retreat, and quitted the hill in great disorder.

General Clinton, who had witnessed from Copp's Hill the repulse of the troops, now hastened over to Charlestown with considerable reinforcements, and, animated by his arrival and by the discovery, through the imprudent exclamations of some of the provincials, that the powder of the latter was nearly exhausted, the British renewed the attack. They had brought their artillery to bear so as to rake the breastwork, and had thus driven the Americans within the redoubt.

The regulars were ordered to retain their fire until they had received that of the provincials, and then to charge with the bayonet. They did so, and as from the want of powder the fire of the Americans was less destructive than on the previous attacks, the British succeeded in reaching the entrenchment, which they passed at the point of the bayonet, meeting resistance only from the stones and clubbed muskets, as the provincials had but few bayonets. A furious but brief struggle hand to hand ensued, which was terminated by the retreat of the Americans, who retired with some degree of order, and unpursued by the enemy until they reached Cambridge, bringing with them one of the six pieces of artillery they had taken to the field. It was about five o'clock when they retreated, and they had been engaged two hours. The British remained under arms on Bunker Hill all night, cannonading the Americans who were in force on Prospect Hill, at the distance of a mile.

The Americans estimated the British loss at fifteen hundred, though Gen. Gage stated it at only one thousand and fifty-four, including eighty-nine officers; the killed amounting to two hundred and twenty-six, and the wounded to eight hundred and twenty-eight. Of the Americans, one hundred and fifteen were killed, three hundred and five wounded, and thirty taken prisoners, making a total of four hundred and fifty.

The Americans of distinction who were killed in the battle, or died soon after, of their wounds, were Gen. Warren, Col. Gardner of Cambridge, Lieut. Col. Parker of Chelmsford, who died a prisoner in Boston jail, and Majors Moore and McClary. Warren was among the last to quit the redoubt, and was shot through the head and died instantly, just after he quitted it.

Among the British officers who fell were Capt. Addison, a relative of the editor of the *Spectator*, and Maj. Pitcairn, who began the war by firing on the militia at Lexington. He was shot by a negro soldier, of whom there appears to have been several in the American ranks; a circumstance which proves that a somewhat different and considerably more creditable feeling towards the African race prevailed among

the New Englanders of that day than among their descendants, who permitted one of that race to be seized and chained as a slave in the midst of their chief city, and within sight of the monument erected to commemorate the struggle for freedom we have just described.

There seems to have been so much haste and confusion in the proceedings of the Americans during the day, that no accurate or definite account of the battle was given for some time afterwards. Even the person with whom the chief command rested, was long disputed, and it is only recently that complete justice has been fully done to Col. Prescott, of whom the latest historian of the battle says "He was the hero of that blood-dyed summit,—the mid-night leader and guard, the morning sentinel, the orator of the opening strife, the cool and deliberate overseer of the whole struggle, the well skilled marksman of the exact distance at which a shot was certain death: he was the venerable chief in whose bright eye and steady nerve all read their duty; and when conduct, skill, and courage could do no more, he was the merciful deliverer of the remnant. Prescott was the hero of the day, and wherever the tale is told, let him be its chieftain."

It is not unworthy of note that the next anniversary of the battle, when the completion of the Monument is to be celebrated, falls on Saturday, the day of the week on which the battle was fought.

As a fitting appendix to the foregoing brief sketch of the Battle of Bunker Hill, we annex the following documents, copied from a work, to which, in the preparation of this pamphlet, we have been very greatly indebted:—"Sketches of Bunker Hill Battle and Monument:" C. P. Emmons, Charlestown.

BRITISH DOCUMENTS.

Extracts from Gen. Howe's Orderly Book.

"General morning orders, Saturday, June 17th, 1775.—The companies of the 35th and 49th that are arrived, to land as soon as the transports can get to the wharf, and to encamp on the ground marked out for them on the Common.

"The ten eldest companies of grenadiers, and the ten eldest companies of light infantry (exclusive of those of the regiment lately landed, the fifth and thirty-eighth regiments,) to parade at half after eleven o'clock, with their arms, ammunition, blankets, and the provisions ordered to be booked this morning. They will march by files to the Long Wharf.

"The 43d and 52d regiments, with the remaining companies of light infantry and grenadiers, to parade at the same time, with the same directions, and march to the north battery. The 47th regiment, and the 1st battalion of marines, will also march, as above directed, to the north battery, after the rest are embarked, and be ready to embark there when ordered.

"The rest of the troops will be kept in readiness to march at a moment's warning.

"One subaltern, one sergeant, one corporal, one drummer, and twenty privates, to be left by each corps for the security of their respective encampments.

"Any man who shall quit his rank, on any pretence, or shall dare to plunder or pillage, will be executed without mercy.

"The pioneers of the army to parade immediately, and march to the south battery, where they will obey such orders as they will receive from Lieut. Col. Cleveland.

"The light dragoons, mounted, to be sent immediately to the lines, where they will attend and obey the orders of the officer commanding there.

"Two more to be sent, in like manner, to head quarters.

"Signals for the boats in divisions, moving to the attack on the rebels entrenched on the heights of Charlestown, June 17, 1775, viz:—

Blue flag	-	-	-	-	-	To advance.
Yellow flag	-	-	-	-	-	To lay on oars.
Red flag	-	-	-	-	-	To land."

Extract of a Letter from Gen. Gage to Lord Dartmouth.

Boston, June 25th, 1775.

The success, of which I send your lordship an account by the present opportunity, was very necessary in our present situation, and I wish, most sincerely, that it had not cost us so dear. The number of killed and wounded is greater than our forces can afford to lose. The officers, who were obliged to exert themselves, have suffered very much, and we have lost some extremely good officers. The trials we have had show the rebels are not the despicable rabble too many have supposed them to be; and I find it owing to a military spirit encouraged among them for a few years past, joined with an uncommon degree of zeal and enthusiasm, that they are otherwise. When they find cover, they make a good stand; and the country, naturally strong, affords it to them, and they are taught to assist its natural strength by art, for they entrench and raise batteries. They have fortified all the heights and passes around this town, from Dorchester to Medford or Mystic, and it is not impossible for them to annoy the town.

Your lordship will perceive that the conquest of this country is not easy, and can be effected only by time and perseverance, and strong armies attacking it in various quarters, and dividing their forces. Confining your operations on this side only, is attacking in the strongest part, and you have to cope with vast numbers. It might naturally be supposed, that troops of the nature of the rebel army would return home after receiving such a check as they had got; and I hear many wanted to go off, but care has been taken to prevent it; for any man that returns home without a pass, is immediately seized and sent back to his regiment. In all their wars against the French, they never showed so much conduct, attention and perseverance as they do now. I think it my duty to let your lordship know the true situation of affairs, that administration may take measures accordingly.

The people's minds are kept so much heated and inflamed, that they are always ripe for every thing that is extravagant. Truth is kept from them, and they are too full of prejudices to believe it, if laid before them; and so blind and bigoted that they cannot see they have exchanged liberty for tyranny. No people were ever governed more absolutely than these of the American Provinces now are, and no reason can be given for their submission, but that it is a tyranny they have erected themselves, as they believe, to avoid greater evils."

General Gage to the Earl of Dartmouth

[From the London Gazette.]

WHITEHALL, July 25th, 1775.

"This morning arrived Capt. Chadds, of His Majesty's ship Cerberus, with the following letter from the Hon Lieut. General Gage, to the Earl of Dartmouth, one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State."

Copy of a Letter from the Hon. Lieut. General Gage, to the Earl of Dartmouth, dated Boston, June 25th, 1775.

'MY LORD:—I am to acquaint your lordship of an action that happened on the 17th inst., between His Majesty's troops and a body of the rebel forces.

An alarm was given at break of day on the 17th inst., by a firing from the Lively ship of war; and advice was soon afterwards received, that the rebels had broke ground, and were raising a battery on the heights of the peninsula of Charlestown, against the Town of Boston. They were plainly seen at work, and in a few hours a battery of six guns played upon their works. Preparations were instantly made for landing a body of men to drive them off, and ten companies of grenadiers, and ten of light infantry, with the fifth, thirty-eighth, forty-third, and fifty-second battalions, made a third line. The rebels upon the heights were perceived to be in great force, and strongly posted—a redoubt, thrown up on the 16th, at night, with other works, full of men, defended with cannon, and a large body posted in the houses in Charlestown covered their right flank, and their centre and left were covered by a breastwork, part of it cannon-proof, which reached from the left of the redoubt to the Mystic or Medford river.

This appearance of the rebels' strength, and the large columns seen pouring in to their assistance, occasioned an application for the troops to be reinforced with some companies of light infantry and grenadiers, the 47th battalion and the first battalion of marines; the whole when in conjunction, making a body of something above 2000 men. These troops advanced, formed in two lines, and the attack began by a sharp cannonade from our field pieces and howitzers; the lines advancing slowly, and frequently halting to give time for the artillery to fire. The light infantry was directed to force the left point of the breast work, to take the rebel line in flank, and the grenadiers to attack in front, supported by the fifth and fifty-second battalions. These orders were executed with perseverance, under a heavy fire from the vast numbers of the rebels; and notwithstanding various impediments before the troops could reach the works, (and though the left, under Brigadier General Pigot, who engaged also with the rebels at Charlestown, which at a critical moment was set on fire,) the Brigadier pursued his point and carried the redoubt. The rebels were then forced from other strong holds, and pursued till they were drove clear of the peninsula, leaving five pieces of cannon behind them.

The loss the rebels sustained must have been considerable, from the great numbers they carried off during the time of the action, and buried in holes, since discovered, exclusive of what they suffered by the shipping and boats. Near one hundred were buried the next day after, and thirty found wounded in the field, three of whom are since dead.

I enclose your lordship a return of the killed and wounded of His Majesty's troops.

This action has shown the superiority of the King's troops,

who, under every disadvantage, attacked and defeated above three times their number, strongly posted, and covered by breastworks.

The conduct of Major General Howe was conspicuous on this occasion, and his example spirited the troops, in which Major General Clinton assisted, who followed the reinforcement. And in justice to Brigadier General Pigot, I am to add, that the success of the day must, in a great measure, be attributed to his firmness and gallantry.

Lieut. Colonels Nesbit, Abercrombie, Clarke; Majors Butler, Williams, Bruce, Spendlove, Smelt, Mitchell, Pitcairn, and Short, exerted themselves remarkably; and the valor of the British officers and soldiers in general, was at no time more conspicuous than in this action.

Summary of British Loss.

"Total,—one Lieutenant Colonel, two Majors, seven Captains, nine Lieutenants, fifteen Sergeants, one Drummer, one hundred and ninety-one rank and file, killed; three Majors, twenty-seven Captains, thirty-two Lieutenants, eight Ensigns, twenty Sergeants, twelve Drummers, seven hundred and six rank and file, wounded."

"Observations on the government account of the late action near Charlestown."

[From the opposition journals.]

"LONDON, August 1, 1775.

"There are two sorts of persons who always persevere uniformly, and without shame, in one unvaried line of conduct, regardless of the contempt and detestation of mankind. The sorts I mean are the thorough virtuous and the thorough scoundrel.

"To one of these classes most evidently belong the ministers who settled the account which they have given us in last Tuesday's Gazette.

"The action near Boston, happened on the '17th of June,' yet General Gage's letter is dated eight days after, on the '25th of June.'

"By this letter it appears that it has cost one thousand and sixty-four of the troops, killed and wounded to destroy a redoubt thrown up only the overnight, i. e. on the 16th of June.

"The loss of the provincials, the letter says, 'must have been considerable;' yet eight days after the action, the General, though completely victorious, can tell us only of 'one hundred' buried, and 'thirty' wounded.

"But 'they had carried off great numbers during the time of the action.' Did they so? That is no great sign of flight, confusion, and defeat.

"But 'they buried them in holes.' Really! why, are our soldiers buried in the air?

"But 'the King's troops were under every disadvantage.' So truly it seems: for in the same letter we are told 'that they had a proportion of field artillery, and landed on the peninsula without opposition, and formed as soon as landed, under the protection of some ships of war, armed vessels, and boats, by whose fire the rebels were kept within their works.'

"But 'the action has shown the superiority of the King's troops.' Has it indeed? How? Why they (with a proportion of field artillery, and with the assistance of ships, armed vessels, and boats, and with the encouragement of certain and speedy

reinforcements, if necessary,) attacked and defeated 'above three times their own numbers.' What, three times their own numbers? Of whom, pray? Of French or Spanish regulars? No, of the Americans. Of the Americans? What, of those dastardly, hypocritical cowards, who, (Lord Sandwich knows,) do not feel bold enough to dare to look a soldier in the face? Of those undisciplined and spiritless Yankees, who were to be driven from one end of the continent to the other, with a single regiment? What, of those skulking assassins, who can only fire at a distance, from behind stone walls and hedges? Good God! Was it necessary, to defeat these fellows, that the troops should be 'spirited' by the example of Gen. Howe, assisted by General Clinton! And can it be, that Lieutenant Colonels Nesbit, Abercrombie, and Clarke; Majors Butler, Williams, Bruce, Spendlove, Smelt, Mitchell, Pitcairn, and Short, should be forced to exert themselves remarkably, against such poltroons? Is it possible that this could be an affair in which 'the valor of the British officers and soldiers, in general, was as conspicuous as at any time whatever,' and notwithstanding all this, that the success, in a great measure, should be attributed to the firmness and gallantry of General Pigot?

"Good God! is it come to this at last? Can the regulars, with all these exertions, only defeat three times their own number of undisciplined cowards? and that, too, at the expense of one thousand and sixty-four, (that is, more than one half,) killed and wounded, out of something above two thousand?

"Is every redoubt which the Americans can throw up in a short summer night, to be demolished at this expense? How many such victories can we bear?

"Alas! When I read in the General's letter the regular and formidable preparations for attack; 'ten companies of grenadiers, ten of light infantry, with the fifth, thirty-eighth, forty-third, and fifty second battalions, with a proportion of field artillery, under the command of Major General Howe and Brigadier General Pigot,' and these 'landed on the peninsula under the protection of ships of war, armed vessels, and boats,' and their dreadful fire; when I had read this, I concluded that the next lines would inform us of the immediate and precipitate flight of the Yankees. Judge, then, of my surprise when I read that (instead of being at all dismayed or struck with the Sandwich panic,) 'large columns' of these cowards 'were seen pouring in to their assistance.'

"Well, but then comes 'an application for the troops to be reinforced with some companies of light infantry and grenadiers, the forty-seventh battalion, and the first battalion of marines.' They will certainly, thought I, scamper away now. Alas! no, they stay and fight. And to complete my astonishment, I cannot find in General Gage's letter, where our troops were when he wrote, or what became of them after the action; whether they are returned to Boston, or have ventured to encamp without the town, what prisoners they have taken; what advantages (besides five pieces of cannon,) result from the bloody action; whether the war is now at an end, or what the troops propose to do next.

"To be serious, I am, for my own part, convinced that the event of this execrable dragooning is decided; and that before winter, there will not be a single soldier of Lord Bute's and Lord Mansfield's mercenary troops left upon the continent of America.

"With what consolation those noble lords will wipe away the tears of the widow and orphans, (as well English as American,) which these bloody Stuart measures have occasioned, I

cannot tell; but I know that my eyes will gush out with joy when they see the authors of our domestic miseries receive (what I believe they will soon receive,) their just reward."

Further observations. "I have the highest idea of General Howe's military character, yet cannot help wondering how he came to suffer the provincials to escape, and even to carry off their dead, when driven from their strong lines; for I conceive it very easy to have destroyed the whole body, after dislodging them from their entrenchments, if Mr. Gage is suffered to tell the story right. I cannot help observing, also, that I never before heard of so many men, in proportion to the number, being killed and wounded from redoubts made in four hours, and from six pieces of cannon only, in those redoubts, to oppose above one hundred pieces. I therefore suspect that the disagreeable scene is not unfolded.

"One or both of the following conclusions must be drawn from this narration; the Americans are either the cleverest fellows in the world at making strong lines in three or four hours, or the most desperate enemy in defending them; for, by Mr. Gage's account, they killed and wounded near half his army in marching about three hundred yards under a complete train of artillery, and all the fire of the navy to cover them; which, by this account, is a new instance of successful defence from one night's labor. Hah, Hah! by this rule, the Americans will put our whole army into the grave or hospitals in three or four nights' work, and and an hour's fire each morning. I do not remember precisely, but am apt to believe that there were not so many officers killed and wounded at the battle of Minden, though the English regiments sustained the force of the whole French army for a considerable time. A six gun battery, the production of a night's digging, had there been ten thousand men to protect it, could never have made such havoc against a vast train of artillery, and the irresistible fire of our ships, which would sweep all before them, from every acre of that peninsula. But the true story is not told. A Methodist secretary and a Scotch printer can do more than our people; they pay off the sins of omission and commission of the day, by a long prayer at night, and thus settle accounts between God and the people in an hour's devotion."

"General Burgoyne to Lord Stanley.

"Boston, June 25, 1775.

"Boston is a peninsula, joined to the main land only by a narrow neck, which, on the first troubles, General Gage fortified; arms of the sea and the harbor surround the rest on the other side. On one of these arms, to the north, is Charlestown; or rather was, for it is now rubbish; and over it is a large hill, which is also (like Boston) a peninsula. To the south of the town is a still larger slope of ground, containing three hills, joining also to the main by a tongue of land, and called Dorchester Neck. The Heights, as above described, both north and south, (in the soldier's phrase,) command the town; that is, give an opportunity of erecting batteries above any that you can make against them, and consequently are much more advantageous. It was absolutely necessary we should make ourselves masters of these Heights, and we proposed to begin with Dorchester; because, from the particular situation of batteries and shipping, (too long to describe, and unintelligible to

you if I did,) it would evidently be effected without any considerable loss. Every thing was accordingly disposed; my two colleagues and myself (who, by the by, have never differed in one jot of military sentiment) had, in concert with General Gage, formed the plan. Howe was to land the transports on the point; Clinton in the centre, and I was to cannonade from the causeway or the Neck; each to take advantage of circumstances. The operation must have been very easy. This was to have been executed on the eighteenth. On the seventeenth, at dawn of day, we found the enemy had pushed intrenchments with great diligence during the night, on the Heights of Charlestown, and we evidently saw that every hour gave them fresh strength. It therefore became necessary to alter our plan, and attack on that side. Howe, as second in command, was detached with about two thousand men, and landed on the outward side of the peninsula, covered with shipping and without opposition; he was to advance from thence up the hill, which was over Charlestown, where the strength of the enemy lay; he had under him Brigadier General Pigot. Clinton and myself took our stand (for we had not any fixed post) in a large battery directly opposite to Charlestown, and commanding it, and also reaching the heights above it, and thereby facilitating Howe's attack. Howe's disposition was exceedingly soldierlike; in my opinion it was perfect. As his first arm advanced up the hill they met with a thousand impediments from strong fences, and were much exposed. They were also exceedingly hurt by musketry from Charlestown, though Clinton and I did not perceive it till Howe sent us word by a boat, and desired us to set fire to the town, which was immediately done; we threw a parcel of shells, and the whole was instantly in flames. Our battery afterwards kept an incessant fire on the Heights; it was seconded by a number of frigates, floating batteries, and one ship-of-the-line. And now ensued one of the greatest scenes of war that can be conceived; if we look to the Heights, Howe's corps ascending the hill, and in the face of intrenchments, and in a very disadvantageous ground, was much engaged; to the left, the enemy pouring in fresh troops thousands, over the land and the arm of the sea, our ships and floating batteries cannonading them; straight before us a large and noble town in one great blaze—the church steeples being timber, were great pyramids of fire above the rest; behind us, the church steeples and heights of our own camp, covered with spectators of the rest of our army, which was engaged; the hills round the country covered with spectators, the enemy all in anxious suspense, the roar of cannon, mortars and musketry, the crash of churches, ships upon the stocks, and whole streets falling together, to fill the ear; the storm of the redoubts, with the objects above described, to fill the eye; and the reflection that, perhaps, a defeat was a final loss to the British Empire in America, to fill the mind; made the whole a picture and a complication of horror and importance beyond anything that ever came to my lot, to be witness to. I much lament Tom's [the Honorable Thomas Stanley, Esquire, nephew to General Burgoyne, and brother to Lord Stanley, a volunteer in the army] absence; it was a sight for a young soldier that the longest service may not furnish again; and had he been with me, he would likewise have been out of danger; for, except two cannon balls that went a hundred yards over our heads, we were not in any part of the direction of the enemy's shot. A moment of the day was critical; Howe's army were staggered; two battalions had been sent to reinforce them, but we perceived them on the beach, seeming in embarrassment what

way to march. Clinton, then, next for business, took the part, without waiting for orders, to throw himself into a boat to head them; he arrived in time to be of service; the day ended with glory, and the success was most important, considering the ascendancy it gave the regular troops; but the loss was uncommon in officers for the numbers engaged. Howe was untouched, but his aid-de-camp, Sherwin, was killed; Jordan, a friend of Howe's, who came *engage de la cœur*, to see the campaign, (a shipmate of ours on board the *Cerberus*, and who acted as aid-de-camp,) is badly wounded. Pigot was unhurt, but he behaved like a hero. You will see the list of the loss. Poor

Colonel Abercrombie, who commanded the grenadiers, died yesterday of his wounds. Captain Addison, our poor old friend, who arrived but the day before, and was to have dined with me on the day of the action, was also killed; his son was upon the field at the same time. Major Mitchell is but very slightly hurt; he is out already. Young Chetwynd's wound is also slight. Lord Percy's regiment has suffered the most, and behaved the best; his lordship himself was not in the action. Lord Rowdan behaved to a charm; his name is established for life."

DESCRIPTION OF BOSTON COMMON.

This beautiful piece of ground, associated with so many of the pleasures and so much of the historical pride of the inhabitants of Boston, is situated in the westerly part of the city, in front of the State House. It is surrounded upon three sides by streets upon which are some of the handsomest private residences in the city, and upon the other, resting upon the waters of Charles River bay, it lies open to the country, commanding a beautiful view of the hills and villages, of Roxbury, Brookline, Brighton and Cambridge.

The space contained in the Common proper — which expression we suppose to be no solecism, except in speaking on grammatical subjects — is about forty-eight acres, inclusive of the cemetery within its limits, which is now tastefully laid out with trees and walks. The land west of Charles Street, and held by the city as a part of the same property, as joint stock of the citizens, is now used for a public garden, and is rapidly becoming an ornament and a benefit to Boston. The Common, including this piece of land, consists of about seventy-five acres, and to the traveller entering the city from the west, forms a very extensive opening among the otherwise compact masses of brick upon the peninsula.

The malls about the Common are shaded by the most beautiful elms; and trees, mostly American elms, old denizens of colonial times and young children of city parentage, stand in numbers (to speak statistically there are over seven hundred) in every part of the Common. Near

its centre is a little sheet of fresh water, which modern refinement has once christened, "Crescent Pond," and once "Quincy Lake," but which Bostonians will probably ever speak of, since all men are boys once, as the "Frog Pond." About this pond have been set some young and thrifty elms which we hope to see yet rivalling in beauty their older brothers in the malls. South of the pond stands the most prominent of the eminences with which the surface of the Common is varied, which until within a few years has borne the marks of a fortification thrown up by the British troops quartered here in 1775, and although its surface is now more smooth and rounded, many Boston boys will regret the destruction of "the fort."

The Common has never been, as has been supposed by some, held as the property of an individual or individuals. It appears from a deposition of several of the then "oldest inhabitants," taken before Governor Bradstreet in 1684, for the purpose of discovering the true terms and agreement by which the peninsula was obtained by the colony under Winthrop, that after the land, (with a reservation of about six acres) had been sold to them by "Mr. William Blackstone," for a considerable sum of money made up by a subscription of six shillings from each householder, ("none," says the affidavit, "paying less, some considerably more,") "the town laid out a place for a Training Field, which ever since, and now is used for that purpose and for the feeding of cattle." This was the origin of the Common,

which we first find alluded to in the town records under date of October 10, 1634, when certain commissioners appointed to divide and dispose of the unoccupied lands are instructed to leave out "such portions in Common *for the use of New Comers*, and the further benefit of the towne, as in their best discretions they shall think fit."

Some further extracts from the Town Records on this subject, may be found interesting. In May, 1729, we find an admirable instance of the "when it rains, let it rain" philosophy, an attempt having been made to do something with the marsh on the west side of the common; "the Selectmen having viewed the Marsh at the bottom of the Common, and not finding any material use that can be made of it," &c. "are of opinion that it is best to lye in the condition it now is." This condition seems to have been, for a piece of land, about as precarious as that of some modern western cities, for we find an account about that time, (January 1728) of two young men, skating "at the bottom of the common," who were *drowned* there, from the breaking of the ice.

In March, 1733, it was "Voted that the row of trees already planted on the Common be taken care of by the selectmen, and that another row of trees be planted there at a suitable distance;" and "that a row of posts, with a rail on the top of them be set up and continued through the Common, from the Burying Place to Col. Fitch's fence, leaving openings at the several streets and lanes." In 1739 it was "Voted that posts and rails be set up from the Granary in Common Street" (the site of the present Park Street Church) "to Beacon Street."

We find subsequently two propositions for disposing of parts of the Common, one "to sell Fox Hill on the Common," a low, sandy mound, which has been levelled and used in filling up the above mentioned marsh; and one petition from a citizen for half an acre of land to be taken out of the Common for a house lot, but neither of them were acceded to.

The original purposes specified in the reserva-

tion of the Common as a place for "a Training Field, and the feeding of Cattle," were long subserved by it. We hope that the planting of so many trees, which has rendered it unfit for the former purpose, will preserve it from that use in future, as it has done in a great degree lately. Cattle have been kept there within the last fifteen or twenty years, and the city ordinance that forbids this, bears date as late as 1833. Many Bostonians will recollect an anecdote in connection with this case of the Common, of an exercise of privilege which would hardly be tolerated at the present time — and some of the older portion of the community may not have forgotten the spirit with which a venerable lady, now deceased, used to relate how she was unexpectedly called upon to entertain as the guests of her husband, whose mansion still overlooks the Common, a large party of French officers belonging to the Count d'Estaing's fleet, and how her energies arose with the emergencies of the occasion. "And what do you think," would she say, "I did for the cream and milk to serve for a breakfast for such a party? Why, I sent out my people with orders to milk all the cows on the Common, and told them if any body asked any questions, to tell them to take the bill to Governor Hancock."

The Common is growing in beauty every day, and will ever be a source of pride and pleasure to Bostonians. We do not despair of the speedy arrival of the time when the city will feel prepared to act upon one or the other of the plans a few years since submitted by the Fresh Water Commission, either of which would furnish the means for a beautiful fountain here. With however, or without this additional ornament, it is a spot endeared to all the inhabitants of the city, and a theme for those praises of strangers with which we all foster our love and our vanity of home. It will remain companion to Faneuil Hall in the historical associations of the city, and will hardly need for its preservation the clause in the city charter which forbids the council to sell it.

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